



REVIEWED by *CF 4/27/89*
 () RELEASE () DECLASSIFIED
 () EXCISE
 () DENY
 FOR EO 12958 exemption
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 () DOWNGRADE IS to () S or () G. OADR
 TO Submit to: OADR

TELEGRAM

Department of State

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 ACTION DEA-11

INFO DCI-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
 DSS-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
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R 051130Z FEB 89
 FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
 TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 609
 INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 AMEMBASSY KABUL
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 12065: NA
 TAGS: DEPR, MOPS, AF, PK, UR
 SUBJECT: POSSIBLE AIRBASE CONSTRUCTION
 REF: STATE 040959 ✓

1. REFUGEE REPORTS INTER ALIA THAT DEPT. SPOKESMAN WAS
 ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON AIR BASES SOVIETS SAID TO BE
 BUILDING "ON" PAKISTAN BORDER. RECENTLY, AN AFGHAN
 REFUGEE MENTIONED TWO SITES IN AFGHANISTAN IN WHAT HE
 DESCRIBED AS DESERT WHERE SOVIETS APPEARED TO BE INVOLVED
 IN "MYSTERIOUS" CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, WHICH COULD BE
 AIR BASES.

2. REFUGEE CAME THROUGH HERE ON FEB. 9 AFTER TRAVELLING
 THROUGH LOGAR AND PAKTIA PROVINCES. ACCORDING TO HIM,
 ONE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IS IN SURKAB DESERT IN LOGAR.
 SITE IS EAST OF VILLAGE OF MOHAMMAD AGHA (ON MAIN KABUL-
 KANDAHAR ROAD) AND SOUTH OF SURKAB DAM. TRAVELER TOOK
 PROJECT TO BE A NEW AIR BASE AS HE COULD THINK OF NO
 OTHER REASON FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN SUCH AN

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3. ACCORDING TO REFUGEE, OTHER AFGHANS HAD MENTIONED AN APPARENTLY SIMILAR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT NEAR FARAHROD IN FARAH PROVINCE. SITE IS SAID TO BE EAST OF MAIN ROAD.

4. COMMENT: BOTH FARAHROD AND SURKAB SITES ARE RELATIVELY CLOSE TO EXISTING AIRBASES: SHINDAND IN THE WEST AND KABUL AND JALALABAD IN THE EAST. THUS, FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, IT IS A BIT DIFFICULT TO SEE THE NEED FOR NEW BASES.

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